

through diplomatic or other secret channels not confined to the ordinary citizen that had warranted him in making the suggestion he did to the belligerents.

Republican Senators as a rule were doubtful whether anything would come of it. They hoped that something would result from the President's kindly offices that would tend to peace, but they were not hopeful.

Senator Stone, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, said: "It is a very timely offer. It puts the whole question of peace up to warring powers, and I hope it will lead to negotiations, and ultimately to peace. I believe it is the beginning of the end. It is in harmony with this season of peace and good will."

"I have so much confidence in the President's judgment that I feel certain his offer, tendered at this time will prove timely and effective. But I am in no position to discuss terms or details or to give any information as to the circumstances that led the President to make the suggestion at this time."

Senator Pomeroy, Ohio, member of the Foreign Relations Committee, said: "I think the President's offer is a splendid one and very opportune. I am sure it will meet with the approval of the entire nation with possibly one exception, Theodore the Great. If the warring nations have any humanity in their souls they will accept the President's suggestion."

Senator Borah: "I sincerely hope that something tangible will come of the President's suggestion—something that will help to restore peace."

Senator McCumber, North Dakota, Republican member of the Foreign Relations Committee: "I have not had opportunity to read the note of the President. Anxious as I am for peace I see nothing encouraging in the situation."

Senator Kern, Kansas, Republican member of the Foreign Relations Committee: "The most important step yet taken to bring about peace and every American will hope that the warring nations will heed his appeal."

Senator Harding, Republican, Ohio: "I believe it represents the sentiment of the country."

Speaker Clark: "I am exceedingly gratified to know that the President has taken this action. It will aid in bringing about peace. The President has a great opportunity for service and he is to be congratulated for having communicated with the belligerent powers. There will be general approval of the President's course," said Representative McElwain, majority leader. "It is very timely and humanitarian. I believe it will bring about a peace conference and that this slaughter will end. The hands of the President should be upheld."

Representative Cooper, Wisconsin, ranking minority member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, interpreted the President's action as an augury for world peace. "The President will inaugurate himself by such a course," he said. "He has taken the initiative just as President Roosevelt did in the Russo-Japanese war."

Minority Leader Mann was quite as frank in his commendation of the President's course. "The President is to be congratulated," he said. "He has done the right thing and it was a very wise move on his part. He is entitled to great credit."

WILSON IS URGED TO ACTION ON BELGIUM

Americans of All Shades of Opinion Sign Petition Calling for Protest.

A petition signed by persons prominent in all walks of life throughout the country, and calling on the President of the United States to protest against the deportation of Belgians, will be forwarded to Washington to-day, it was announced here last night by Elihu Root. The petition says:

"Inasmuch as the Chief Magistrate of a country is entitled to know the definite sentiments of the people, we hereby petition the President of the United States to throw the whole influence of his office against the deportation of the Belgians by the German Government."

"And we especially desire that, in whatever manner seems best to him, steps may be taken to join this country with the other neutral states of the American continent in a determined protest against this reversion to barbarism in warfare, not to be witnessed by a civilized world without indignation."

A statement issued regarding the petition said:

"It is a response to the call of the President for the voice of the people. Almost every citizen of the country sends the names of its eminent men. Supreme Court Justices of the various States join with idealists and reformers; bishops, archbishops, and prominent clergies, with scientists, railroad presidents with labor leaders; manufacturers with men of letters; bankers and business men with sculptors and painters; leaders of the bar with heads of the laboratory; pacifists with retired officers of the army and navy. Democrats with Republicans. In equal fervor to support the President in his efforts to save Belgium."

"Whole bodies of men in the various states have signed the petition. Statesmen have sent special letters."

NO XMAS TREES IN BERLIN.

Very Little Holiday Shopping Reported in German Capital.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun from the London Times.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The Times prints the following despatch from Copenhagen: "The Berlin correspondent of the Politiken says that owing to the prohibition of unnecessary transport, Berlin is without Christmas trees. There also is very little shopping, business being much less brisk than usually at this time of year. The comprehensive system of garage hampers shopping, and many stores close at 7 o'clock instead of midnight, as customers are few."

EM. GATTLER & CO.

Platinum Smiths 630 FIFTH AVE. Jewelers

WATCHES OF DEPENDABILITY AND DISTINCTION

JEWELLED WRIST WATCHES Fashioned especially for ribbon bracelets. Time keeping qualities absolutely guaranteed.

MEN'S WATCHES In Platinum and Gold, notable for a great variety of novel shapes. Opposite St. Patrick's Cathedral

REPLY TO GERMANY MAY GO THIS WEEK

Lloyd George and His Cabinet Have Preliminary Drafts Under Consideration.

DOOR REMAINS OPEN

Manchester "Guardian" Urges Berlin to Make Statement Regarding Terms.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—There is a strong probability that Great Britain's note in reply to the German peace proposal will be made before Christmas. This was the opinion in well informed Government circles to-day. It is believed the reply will be brief and will likely follow the lines of Mr. Lloyd George's maiden speech as Prime Minister in so far as it will leave the door open for Germany to make concrete peace proposals.

Great Britain's official reply to Germany, as prominent officials preferred to term it, will be despatched simultaneously with the German note, it is said, since the German note was handed to the Foreign Office by the American Ambassador at Washington, which has been the subject of discussion between Premier Lloyd George and his Cabinet Council, which meets daily. The note and the nature of the reply also have been discussed with the German Ambassador at London, and it is said that these conversations have progressed so rapidly that preliminary drafts have been made.

Wants to Lose No Time.

It would therefore not be surprising if the Allies' replies were ready by the end of the week. Especially, it is said, would this be true in the case of Great Britain's note, which the Prime Minister is declared to be anxious to despatch without delay.

When the terms of the note are definitely agreed upon and the document is signed by Lord Robert Cecil, who is acting Foreign Secretary in the absence of Mr. Balfour, it may be handed to Ambassador Page with the request that he forward it to the State Department at Washington for transmission to Germany. This is said to be the most likely method, inasmuch as the United States represents the Allies' interests in Germany. It is just possible, however, that Great Britain may decide to despatch the reply direct to the British Ambassador at Washington, with instructions to turn it over to the State Department.

Exact Terms Desired.

The general comment in the British press is that if Germany really wants peace she will, when the joint reply of the Allies is received, state terms which can form a basis of discussion. The Manchester Guardian says:

"Mr. Lloyd George has not shut the door on peace with that resounding clang for which some of his less balanced supporters in the press have been listening. The German Chancellor must be both more modest and more explicit before he can expect any favorable answer to his invitation to enforce peace. In such a situation which his offer created was that the Allies, this country in particular, might be led into an abrupt and sweeping refusal, not merely of the actual invitation but of any proposal to discuss peace terms. This, says Lloyd George, has been avoided."

The Guardian notes that the speech contained no hint of the crushing of Germany, but says discussion of any matter is confined on restitution. In the truest form, it continues, negotiation is impossible, for the deepest wrongs cannot be undone.

"Security we certainly require," the Guardian continues. "The best security is the firm, unbroken front of the alliance, fortified when the war ends by a universal league to enforce peace. In such a league America would play a great part and her presence alone would be no small security."

THREE STEAMERS ARE SUNK.

One British, One Norwegian and One Japanese Sent to Bottom.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The British steamship Pilmston has been sunk by a submarine. Her captain and first engineer were taken prisoners. The others of the crew were rescued. The Norwegian steamer Prima, 1,234 tons, has also been sunk.

The sinking of the Japanese steamer Taki Maru is announced by Tokyo. The Pilmston, 3,492 tons net, was last reported on her departure from Buenos Ayres on November 13 for London.



ENGLAND BUYS ROAD'S "JUNK."

Will Become Part of First Class System Over There.

Just "junk" in the United States, the tracks and equipment of the Chicago, Anamosa and Northern, known to railroad men as the "Can" road, are to be sent over to England and there become a part of a first class system.

Announcement of the sale was made yesterday by Herman Sonker, its president, at the quarterly session here of the National Association of Waste Material Dealers. Sonker bought the line merely as "waste material" and made a handsome profit on the deal, so great has become the demand abroad for old rails and iron.

Officials of the association asserted that the waste material business in the United States in 1915 has amounted to more than \$1,000,000,000.

The interesting statement was made that the high price of paper is not due to a scarcity of rags and old paper stock. One official said paper manufacturers had told waste dealers repeatedly that they were not in the market. He asserted the manufacturers were getting all the waste material they needed.

STOCKS DROP AGAIN IN FEVERISH DRIVE

Market Affected by Confident Tone of Statements From German Embassy.

Second consideration of Premier Lloyd George's speech and the confident tone expressed in statements from the German Embassy in Washington gave Wall Street another spectacular stock demonstration yesterday. Prices declined almost as rapidly as on the previous day, and the net losses at the close were in many cases greater.

The market gave promise of steadying at the opening, but after the first few minutes of trading the bears again marshaled their forces for a new drive, which caused declines of from 2 to 12 points and more. This drive apparently shook the confidence of many of the commission house speculators who had weathered the markets of the last week, and they let their long stock go rather than meet calls for additional margin.

Spectacular declines were furnished by International Mercantile Marine preferred and common. The British Admiralty has already taken over more than thirty of the 110 ships of this company. Bethlehem Steel also furnished a spectacular decline, selling down to 500, a drop of 22 points from the previous closing.

United States Steel, which opened higher than the preceding day's closing figure, broke sharply. At one time it sold as low as 107 1/2. A feeble rally near the close brought short lived and the stock closed at 108, a net loss of 4 points for the day. The heaviest losses for the day were:

American Beet Sugar, 4 1/2 points; American Can, 2 1/2; American Locomotive, 4 1/2; Baldwin Locomotive, 4 1/2; Central Leather, 8 1/2; Chrysler, 5 1/2; Lackawanna Steel, 5 1/2; Republic Steel, 2 1/2; United Fruit, 3 1/2; United States Rubber, 3 1/2; Utah Copper, 5.

Prices were again enormous volume, with 1,393,000 shares changing hands in the five hour session. At the close the ticker was more than twenty minutes behind the actual market.

Aid for Guardians Passed.

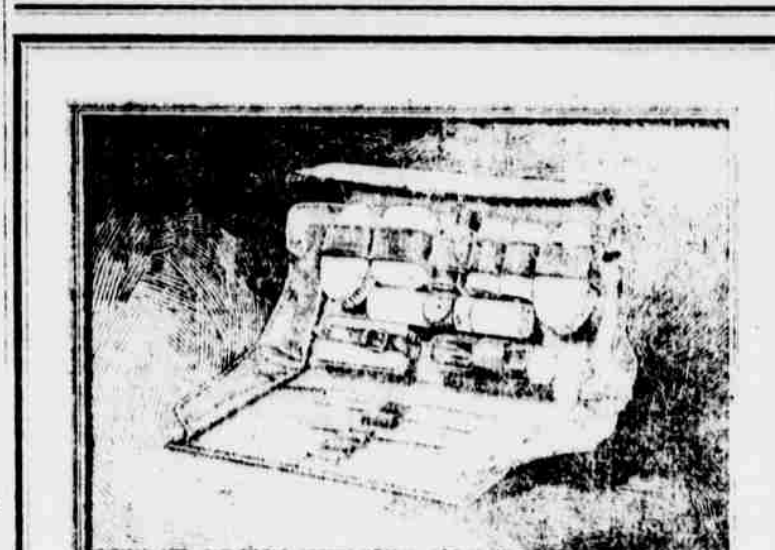
WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The emergency deficiency appropriation bill providing \$4,250,000 for dependent families of guardians and regular passed the House to-day and was taken up immediately in the Senate.

CHURCHILL'S

Dinner—Tonight

At Churchill's inquires a delightful occasion, whether one chooses the a la carte service or the Special Dinner at \$1.25.

Also—a delightful Special Lunch—now at 75c.



THIS fitted toilet case is one of our many designs and sizes for both men and women. They are all compact and conveniently arranged.

The leather is fine, durable goat skin. The lining is "Persian goat," in rich dark green or purple.

The flaps are of goat skin, and fold into place neatly. The stitching is done with pure silk thread.

The catch is of solid brass, gold plated. The fittings are of high quality artificial ivory.

The pockets or loops to hold the fittings are of reinforced goat skin, substantially stitched in place.

This case is worthy of bearing the mark we have placed upon it—our firm name.

Crouch & Fitzgerald
Makers of Fine Trunks and Hand Luggage Since 1839
177 Broadway 14 West 4th Street—154 Fifth Avenue

GERMAN PRESS HERE LAUDS WILSON NOTE

Editorials Call It "Signal for the End of Hostilities."

New York German newspapers print the following editorial comments regarding President Wilson's note:

New Yorker Herald.—The note of the President which was published last night is the best Christmas present that could have been given to the world, save peace itself, which surely will be greeted everywhere with jubilation. . . . We rather believe that England and the Entente Powers in general have turned to Washington for the aid of America's good office. . . . The note is the first important utterance of the President since the outbreak of the war. It will find the full and unqualified support of all Americans and of the whole world. . . . We believe that we may express our firm conviction that peace is nearer than has been hitherto believed possible. For we do not believe that Mr. Wilson would have taken this step without previously ascertaining that it would be agreeable to the belligerents.

Signal for the End.

German Herald.—President Wilson's note setting for peace terms was the signal for the end of hostilities. We are certain that this note is but the result of negotiations behind the scenes and that the speech of the German Chancellor and that of Lloyd George were merely preliminary acts in the drama which is now unfolding itself before our eyes. The President's note is drawn up in such a manner that the impression is conveyed that he is merely sounding the belligerents as to the prospects of peace, but in reality he would not dare to come out openly in this manner if secret negotiations, whether he should do so, had not been answered by the belligerents in the affirmative. . . .

Act of World Importance.

Staats-Zeitung.—The despatch of this document constitutes an act of world historic importance. Correctly judging the situation President Wilson chose the psychological moment for this step. . . . The warning of the President powerfully effective in its impressive form and tenor, cannot miss its effect even with the most obstinate and stubborn of European statesmen, for it is the power of truth which in dignified expression appeals to the minds of these rulers, minds hardened by the tumult of this bloody struggle. To President Wilson the greatest sign of relief of the battle-torn and misery laden peoples of Europe will be a monument which will set to his name a place in history more lasting than statues of armor or bronze.

Deutsches Journal.—President Wilson has sent the belligerent and neutral nations, the whole world, a Christmas message—a message of peace. He does not concede that he is urging peace. In fact he rejects any interpretation to that effect. . . . However, . . . the "understandings" which slumber beneath his every word is after all the tone of the Christmas bells, ringing softly, dreamily. And the time it seems as if the President had really become the motto-piece of the American nation's will, as if he were speaking the mind and heart of his people, who on all sides across the seas have brothers and fathers that have given the red heart blood for that which they conceived to be right and just. President, leader of our nation, we thank you and wish you luck and success in this undertaking!

WALL STREET VIEW SURPRISES ENGLISH

No Delusions Held in London About Any Coming Collapse of Germany.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—Surprise is occasioned here by cable dispatches purporting to give it as the opinion of Wall Street that the coming collapse of Germany is responsible for the decline in stocks.

The word collapse is never heard here in connection with the German campaign. It is true the German peace kite is interpreted here, as in America, as a sign of weakness, but the Government, the army and the people are under no delusion as to the serious nature of the work yet ahead. Mr. Lloyd George's warning that nobody should support the new Government in expectation of an early end to the war is taken here literally and seriously, as made not at all with a merely impressive purpose and to aid in passing drafts long enough to pass the House of Commons to-day passed a resolution presented by the Government that an additional number of land forces not exceeding 1,000,000 should be maintained at home and abroad. It was explained that no question of

policy was involved, but that the Colonial troops and forces of the Crown exceed the 4,000,000 already authorized and a vote was necessary in order to regularize the force.

New munitions factories are being erected, transportation is being conserved, business of all kinds more and more curtailed and embarrassed by a stricter enforcement of the military service law. This all indicates that the authorities gravely appreciate the severity of the future.

There is a general feeling here that America does not fully comprehend European opinion. There is surprise that there seemed to America any possible doubt about Lloyd George's reply, and a reasonable supposition that the Allies would take such a peace proposal seriously.

It is fully realized here that Germany, with her back against the wall, can offer stubborn resistance. There is no doubt in Germany except the army is forced such an internal upheaval as might shorten the day, and the army is Prussianized. America had the first war of attrition in the history of the world. America will remember how long it took to reach an unconditional surrender.

CHINA STRICTLY NEUTRAL.

Planning to Join Entente.

PERKIN, Dec. 20.—Hsin-yi-ting, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, appeared before the lower house of Parliament to-day and answered questions concerning a rumor that China was preparing to join the Entente. He declared that China was absolutely not considering entering the European struggle and that she would maintain the strictest neutrality.

Hsin-yi-ting spoke as the representative of Premier Tuan Chi-ch'ui.

The note protests vigorously against

the revolutionists spread their activities to other islands in the archipelago, where they committed depredations, made arrests and abolished the legal authorities, whom the Government could not rescue on account of the Allies' blockade. "The Government is most astonished to see the allied warships permit the revolutionists to perpetrate these acts, since by its reply to the ultimatum on December 11 the Government gave the strongest proof of its good will toward the Entente."

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The note protests vigorously against

GREECE DELIVERS PROTEST TO ALLIES

Denounces Action of Venizelist Officers in Archipelago as Seditious.

ATHENS, via London, Dec. 20.—A note was presented by the Greek Government to the Entente Powers Monday evening. It says:

"The royal government learns with astonishment that a large number of revolutionists under command of seditious officers from Salonika landed several days ago on the island of Syros despite the blockade the allied fleet maintains, arrested all the high functionaries and many notables and committed every sort of outrage, since when they have continued to terrorize the inhabitants of the islands. Later a British warship landed a detachment and arrested the chief of police."

"The revolutionists spread their activities to other islands in the archipelago, where they committed depredations, made arrests and abolished the legal authorities, whom the Government could not rescue on account of the Allies' blockade. "The Government is most astonished to see the allied warships permit the revolutionists to perpetrate these acts, since by its reply to the ultimatum on December 11 the Government gave the strongest proof of its good will toward the Entente."

The note protests vigorously against

NEW TAX YIELDS \$368,495,000.

That's the Total Levy on Excess Profits in Britain.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The tax on excess profits has produced £368,495,000 (\$368,495,000) up to December 15, Mr. Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, told the House of Commons to-day.

The original estimate for the full year ending March 31, said the Chancellor, was £36,000,000 (\$360,000,000), an amount which he considered likely to be greatly exceeded.

FOUR TO ONE AGAINST PEACE.

London Market Charges 20 Per Cent. for Insurance.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—Twenty per cent. was paid on the London market today for insurance covering the payment of claims should peace be declared by June 30.

The equivalent of 4 to 1 against peace is given.

AN IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT

that you can give only this Christmas—never again

HAVE you thought of the new Encyclopaedia Britannica, printed on beautiful India paper, as a gift? There are half a dozen persons (including yourself and some of the family) for whom this great library of knowledge would be a superb present.

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the last genuine India paper that could be obtained

before the war cut off the supply of raw material (flax) out of which this thin-and-tough paper is manufactured. Not only is this the last India paper which could be procured for the printing of the Britannica, but it will be years after the war ends before India paper can be produced in sizable quantities.

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It discusses the wonders of earth and sea and sky—the thoughts and activities of man—and yet it teems with all sorts of the most everyday-practical information connected with such things as farming, housekeeping, painting, architecture, electrical engineering, art, music, literature, everything.

Here are the answers to the questions the children are always asking. Here are

the facts that you are constantly seeking, to help you in a business way or otherwise. Here is the means of improving your education along general or special lines. Here is insurance against ignorance or lack of interest in the world in which you live.

Think of having a complete library in your own home—in 29 compact volumes, 30,000 pages, 41,000 separate articles, 500,000 indexed facts, 44,000,000 words and 15,000 illustrations and maps.

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You can have the entire set (29 volumes) delivered to your home or office upon your first payment of only \$1

You have immediate use of this marvelous work—you reap its benefits while you are paying for it in small monthly amounts for a short period. Of the 75,000 sets of the more expensive Cambridge issue printed on the famous India paper, less than 1500 sets are left. If you prefer one of these—and this set certainly makes a magnificent appearance in any library—you must order it immediately. You can get it for a first payment of \$5 (the entire set shipped on receipt of order), to be followed by a limited number of monthly payments of the same amount.

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